

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice.

1.-3. (Canceled)

Please add new claims 4-15.

4. (New) A method for supporting the growth of eukaryotic cells *in vitro*, said method comprising the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells *in vitro* with a cell growth substrate comprising stomach submucosal tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells.

5. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the stomach submucosal tissue comprises the tunica submucosa delaminated from both the tunica muscularis and at least the luminal portion of the tunica mucosa.

6. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells with a cell growth substrate comprises culturing the cells on cultureware that has been coated with fluidized submucosal tissue.

7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue.

8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue and liquid cell culture media.

9. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises a powder form of stomach submucosal tissue.

10. (New) A method for growing eukaryotic fastidious cells *in vitro*, said method comprising

contacting said cells *in vitro* with a cell growth substrate comprising stomach submucosal tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells.

11. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the stomach submucosal tissue comprises the tunica submucosa delaminated from both the tunica muscularis and at least the luminal portion of the tunica mucosa.

12. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells with a cell growth substrate comprises culturing the cells on cultureware that has been coated with fluidized submucosal tissue.

13. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue.

14. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue and liquid cell culture media.

15. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises a powder form of stomach submucosal tissue.